

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A longitudinal plunging unit (24) for transmitting torque in a shaft assembly, comprising:

[[-]] a profiled sleeve (25) with circumferentially distributed, longitudinally extending first ball grooves (26);

[[-]] a profiled journal (1) which comprises a first portion (5) with circumferentially distributed, longitudinally extending second ball grooves (6) with ball groove run-outs (7) as well as an axially adjoining second portion (8);

[[-]] balls (11) which are arranged in groups in pairs of first ball grooves and second ball grooves (26, 6), and

[[-]] a ball cage (10) which is arranged radially between the profiled sleeve (25) and the profiled journal (1) and fixes the balls (11) in their axial position relative to one another, wherein the ball cage (10) is displaceable, relative to the profiled journal (1), between axial stops arranged at a distance from one another,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein there is arranged an abutment sleeve (13a, 13b, 13c, 13d) on the profiled journal (1), which abutment sleeve is able to abut the profiled journal (1) or a component connected thereto and delimits the displacement path of the ball cage (10) towards the second portion (8).

2.-10. (cancelled)